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COMMON CARRIERS.

A Curious Decision Concerning Their Responsibility to the Public.

A common carrier of passengers, with their baggage, assumes as to the passengers two distinct species of responsibility: one as to their persons and another as to their baggage. Before the introduction of railroads, when passengers by stage coach, the Supreme Court of Massachusetts laid down a general rule: That carriers of passengers for hire are bound to use the utmost care and diligence in the providing of safe, sufficient and suitable coaches, harnesses, horses and coachmen, in order to prevent those injuries which human care and foresight can guard against. Since railroads have come to be the principal means of land travel in Europe and America, and at a rate of speed never dreamed of when stage-coaches were so universally in vogue, the courts both in England and the United States have given the general rule a broader and more stringent application. Some years ago an accident happened to a train through the breaking of an axle, and a number of passengers were injured. Suit was brought against the railroad company for damages. The company showed that the car had been built for them by skillful car-builders, and while in the process of building it was carefully examined by an agent of the company, both with respect to material and workmanship, and again when it was completed was carefully inspected in every particular. It had been in use with safety sixteen months before the accident. The car-builder had obtained the axle from an approved and skillful manufacturer and that the defect in it as was shown, could not have been detected by the most careful examination of the axle by striking it with a hammer while it was being made, and the process of building, and that the opinion of the court was that the railroad company was responsible for all the loss which might be any loss of passengers, in any manner, and then proceeded, and to the same extent as if the company had manufactured the axle in its own shop, and by its own workmen, and if there was any test known which at any time might have been employed to discover concealed defects in the axle, the company was guilty of negligence for not making such test. —Selden R. Hopkins, in Wide Awake.

The Women of Persia.

The Persian lady is a good housewife. She rises with the dawn, she is liberal in her housekeeping, kind to her servants—a little profuse, perhaps, but then living is cheap in the East. The keys of everything are in the keeping of the mistress of the house, and she is usually exact in her account. All the vast stock of conserves and sweetmeats, sirups for the preparation of sherbets and pickles in endless variety are either prepared by her own fingers or under her eyes. Nor does she disdain to the confectioner and maker of pastry. As evening approaches she sits in an elaborate Persian divan being taken of among the upper classes by the sexes apart—she prepares to entertain her husband; she will play to him upon the lute or harmonica; she will sing to him or read him to sleep with poetry, or she will play with him at backgammon or chess, or recite to him long stories in the style of the Arabian Nights. When he is sick she nurses him, and it is her pride to see that his wardrobe is well supplied and his servants well clad. She will intrigue for him, plead for him, lie for him, and has been known to die for him. She will even carry her complaisance so far as to find another wife for him. —St. James Gazette.

Bats That Can Swim.

I was once watching a little stream near Glasgow, in Cleveland, where it widened out above a neglected weir. It was about the long of summer. A small bat flew out of some cranny in the rocks, I dare say, and fluttered over the pool. Perhaps it was dazzled by the light of the shimmering of the water. Anyhow it fell into the middle of the pool, and I thought it would be drowned. However, it managed to get itself with its wings to the opposite bank, and there it crept away among the bushes—dragged, dispirited, looking object. This summer I was watching a pond one still, misty evening. It was about sunset and numbers of bats came out and hawked flies over the water. They often dipped, and once or twice a bat overbalanced itself and lay with its wings expanded on the water. Incredible as it may seem, after several struggles these immersed bats succeeded in rising on the wing from the surface of the water, which was three or four feet deep. —London Spectator.

Wills by the Hundred.

The Hungarian historian, M. Salamon, has just discovered in the archives of Ada-Pesth more than five hundred wills bearing dates between 1802 and 1874. There wills had been intrusted to the public authorities for safe keeping, but by some unaccountable blunder they were never communicated to the heirs of the testators, so that in many cases the successions to which they related were treated as coming from persons who had died intestate, and had to be regulated by long and costly law suits. M. Salamon's discovery is naturally causing a profound sensation, for it may unsettle property that has passed into thousands of hands, and it must infallibly produce a whole crop of fresh law suits. —N. Y. Post.

—While Augusta has appeared to be standing still," remarks the Chronicle, "no city in the South, with the exception of one or two in the mineral regions, has invested so much money in manufactures. In cotton manufacturing Augusta leads the South."

ABOUT CO-OPERATION.

A Social Problem Which is Almost as Old as Mankind Itself.

In one sense co-operation is as ancient as society. The first tribe that acted together knew that it was better to do so than to fight singly. Men recognized that unity was strength before Esop composed his fable of the bundle of sticks. Nimrod doubtless knew that two greyhounds hunting together would run down more hares than four hunting separately. But the modern co-operator knows that the modern co-operator runs down the hares for himself. Co-operation in industry means the equitable distribution of all gain among those who earn it. This is a new idea among the working people in our towns, for the method of applying it is scarcely forty years old. The co-operative idea applied to industry was first in the latter part of the last century. Ambedkar was almost a co-operative town, as may be read in David Urquhart's "Turkey and Its Resources." So vast a municipal partnership of industry has never existed since. The fishers on the Cornish coast carried out co-operation on the sea, and the miners of Cumberland dug on the principle of sharing the profits. The plan has been productive of contentment and advantage. Gruyere is a co-operative cheese, being formerly made in the Jura mountains, where the profits were equitably divided among the makers. In 1775, as Dr. Langford relates in his "Century of Birmingham Life," the tailors of that enterprising town set up a co-operative workshop, which is the earliest in English record. In France an attempt was made by Babeuf in 1795 to establish a despotism of justice and equality by violence, after the manner of Robespierre, whose policy the French revolutionists had learned from the English. Babeuf was like all co-operators, who at once attacked idleness. In 1848, when no great idea ever died, the conception of Babeuf was taken up by men who had the genius of persuasion in them. Then came Morris, whose imagination had the material quality of precision, and who defined the social problem, and has since supplanted the others. No matter, however, what the material employed, the process has always been the same, the substance being ground to a pulp, then spread thin over a frame of some kind and left to dry, when sining was applied, the paper smoothed and finished. —Golden Days.

GREATLY OVERTAKEN.

An Eastern Widow's Experience in the Unsettled West.

A widow who, having come from the East and established herself in a Western town, was visited by a friend from the old home. "Well, how do you like it out here, anyway?" "Not very well." "People too rough for you?" "They are not only rough—they are peculiar, and in fact, the men are greatly overtaken." "Well, I'll make a plain statement and let you draw your own conclusions. I had read in the newspapers that women were in demand out here, and I naturally expected some little attention." "Didn't you receive it?" "Wait until I get through with my statement please. I bought me a light-colored wig, got a new set of teeth, had my glass eye re-glazed and plunged into the mad whirl of society. That was six months ago, and I am still a widow." "Pretty bad, I must admit; but didn't you get any proposals?" "One." "Why didn't you take him?" "I cannot too much by appearance, and, besides, I did not want to be rejected him, but I was foolish in my notions. He had only one leg, was almost blind, was undoubtedly addicted to the use of liquor, was in debt, swore considerably, chewed raw tobacco and was a great liar. Perhaps, though, regardless of appearances, I would have married him, had I not heard a damaging report concerning him." "What was it?" "Why, I heard that he was not a lover of the fine arts. Oh, yes, the men out in this part of the country are greatly overtaken." —Arkansas Traveler.

DEATH TO THE FISH.

The Singular Manner in Which a Half-Storm Destroyed Them.

The story of the poisoning of Dabbs Lake, in Georgetown County, by a half-storm, as telegraphed, and which many persons supposed to be "fishy," has been corroborated in every particular by a prominent citizen of Georgetown, who had investigated the matter at the request of General Greely, chief of the Signal Service. A dense mass of black gum trees surrounds the lake on all sides. It is well known that the leaves of this tree are strongly impregnated with tannic acid. It has also been ascertained that the bottom of the lake contains a slight deposit of iron. The matter at the request of General Greely, chief of the Signal Service. A dense mass of black gum trees surrounds the lake on all sides. It is well known that the leaves of this tree are strongly impregnated with tannic acid. It has also been ascertained that the bottom of the lake contains a slight deposit of iron. The matter at the request of General Greely, chief of the Signal Service. 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